

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 2 is amended as follows:

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The optional first and second side portions 26 and 27 may be inclined at respective angles relative to the central portion 23 and may be bendable relative to the central portion 23. The body 13 may have creases 28 and 29 in its material along the first and second side edges 28 and 29 for facilitating bending of the side portions 26 and 27 relative to the central portion 23. The length of the central portion 23 and first and second side portions 26 and 27 ranges from one to ten inches and preferably ranges from one to six inches. The width of the central portion 23 ranges from three-quarters inch to two inches and preferably ranges from three-quarters inch to one inch, and the width of the first and second side portions 26 and 27 ranges from one-quarter inch to two inches and preferably ranges from one-quarter inch to one half inches. There may be any number of longitudinally spaced-apart holes 34 in spacer 12. The spacing between holes 34 ranges from one-eighth inch to six inches and preferably ranges from one-quarter inch to one inch. In the preferred embodiment, the first and second side portions 26 and 27 are each inclined at an angle of approximately 90 degrees relative to the first surface 31 of the central portion 23. The first and second side portions 26 and 27 may each be inclined, however, at any angle ~~of less than~~ 180 degrees ~~or less~~ relative to the first surface 31 of the central portion 23.

The paragraph beginning on page 5, line 26 is amended as follows:

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First and second portions 66 and 67 are inclined relative to each other and are preferably bendable toward each other. The body 52 may have a crease 69 in the material along the edge 69 facilitating the bending of the first and second portions 66 and 67 relative to each other. The first and second portions 66 and 67 can have lengths similar to the lengths discussed above for central portion 23 and side portions 26 and 27 of spacer 12. The width of the first and second portions 66 and 67 can range from one-quarter inch to three inches and preferably ranges from three-quarters inch to one and one-half inches. There may be any number of longitudinally spaced-apart holes 64, and the spacing between holes 64 can be similar to the spacing discussed above with respect to holes 34 of hanger spacer 12. The first and second portions 66 and 67 are each

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inclined at an angle of approximately 90 degrees relative to each other, however may be inclined at ~~an~~any angle ~~of~~less than 180 degrees ~~or less~~ relative to each other.

The paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22 is amended as follows:

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Yet another embodiment of a plurality of stackable hanger spacers of the present invention is shown in FIG. 8. In stack 81 shown therein, a plurality of hanger spacers or garment hanger spacers 82 are disposed one on top of another for shipping and distribution purposes. For example, hanger spacer 82 is stacked on top of another hanger spacer 82, which is stacked on top of yet another hanger spacer 82. Each hanger spacer 82 has some like components of the hanger spacer 12 of FIG. 3 and like reference numerals have been used to describe such like components. Each hanger spacer 82 has a central portion 23 having opposite first and second side edges 28 and 29 as well as first and second surfaces 31 and 32. Each hanger spacer 82 also has spaced-apart holes 34 extending between the first and second surfaces 31 and 32. First and second side portions 86 and 87, substantially similar to side portions 26 and 27 of spacer 12, are joined to the central portion 23 of each spacer 82 at respective first and second edges 28 and 29. The first and second side portions 86 and 87 are each inclined relative to the central portion 23 and are preferably bendable relative to the central portion 23. More specifically, first and second side portions 86 and 87 of each hanger spacer 82 are inclined relative to first surface 31 of the central portion 23 at ~~an~~any angle ~~of~~less than 180 degrees ~~or less~~ and preferably at an angle of greater than 90 degrees. Alternatively, the first side portion 86 may be inclined relative to the first surface 31, while the second side portion 87 may be inclined relative to the second surface 32, both surfaces being inclined at an angle of 180 degrees or less and preferably at an angle of greater than 90 degrees. These alternate versions of inclined first and second side portions 86 and 87 facilitate the stacking of the plurality of hanger spacers 82 for shipping and distribution purposes.